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portion concerned with the establishment of death tables, or probability of life tables, according to ages, are of especial interest, treating as they do of the very foundations upon which all life insurance must rest. With the growth of the insurance of workingmen against old age and invalidity, the problems here involved are becoming of increasing importance. Professor von Mayr devotes nearly forty pages to this subject, and gives us a very critical consideration of the requirements of tables of death rates and the various methods that can be employed for their construction. The paucity of American contributions on this subject makes the treatment here given all the more timely and acceptable.

Not the least praise should be given to the form or manner in which the information has been presented. Careful attention has evidently been given to this point with the result that a most methodical arrangement of the material in chapters, heads, and sub-heads has been obtained. Each subject is treated in its proper place, and a detailed table of contents makes the reference to any particular point easy. There is also an index. With these excellencies, it is all the more to be regretted that the style of the author is involved in the extreme. It will be difficult for any but the most thorough German scholars correctly to interpret in many places the exact idea that the author desires to convey. As one becomes familiar with his system of sentence construction less difficulty is experienced, but the usefulness of the book for general reference will be curtailed by this fact.

Professor von Mayr has more than fulfilled the expectations that his first volume excited. We know of no other work covering the same ground equal in value to it. It is not a mere survey of the field of statistics, but gives us a real examination of statistical problems in a thoroughly scientific spirit.

WILLIAM F. WILLOUGHBY.

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*Industrial Experiments in the British Colonies of North America.*

By ELEANOR LOUISA LORD. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1898. 8vo. pp. vii + 154.

A MONOGRAPH based chiefly on the documents of the board of trade, now in the public record office, London. The author treats at some length the many efforts of the home government to force the colonists into manufacturing naval stores, especially tar and pitch for

the royal navy. Contingent thereto was the growth of a natural lumber trade and the building of vessels. Incidentally she describes the rise of woolen, linen, and iron manufactures. Though the treatment is general, most of the matter is drawn from the experience of the colonies of New England.

The chartered companies were soon abandoned and the government itself directly encouraged the production of naval supplies. An interesting account of the Palatine immigrants is given. It was hoped that their labor would cheapen the cost of supplies. All expedients failed, however, and the people of New England turned "naval stores" into ships of their own, excepting so far as superior masts were carried away by the royal mandate.

Miss Lord is not singular among historical writers, when she does not perceive the whole function of a vessel and its cargo of exports in stimulating the industrial growth of New England. Gov. Dudley said blindly, "the people were proud enough to wear the best cloths of England, if chopping, sawing, and building ships would pay for them." A vessel with its cargo of fish or pipe staves was a bill of exchange in itself, before bills on paper were used. The pork raised on the farm, the home-spun garments, and iron nails made at the fire-side, the fishing on the Banks, the vessels built on inland streams and sold abroad—all went together to husband industry and create exchange in London.

But the essayist discovers the main current of industry and business, which was toward making the colonies economically independent long before the Stamp acts irritated the political surface of things. "The home government helped rather than hindered the economic revolution which preceded the political separation of the colonies from the mother country."

The work is carefully done, and will prove useful in economic study.

Wm. B. WEEDEN.

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*The State and Charity.* By THOMAS MACKAY. (*The English Citizen Series.*) London: Macmillan & Co., 1898. 12-mo. pp. 201.

PUBLIC relief is a certain form of economic distribution, a "certain abnormal method for distributing the good things of the world." It